

Thursday July 22

Dear Mom & Dad,

It was nice talking to you on Sunday night. It seems like we left a long time ago although it has only been three weeks.

Vickie's cousin & his wife stayed at our place last night. They had just completed a European tour with some high school students. They slept on the convertible sofa.

Today we took the train to Southampton and picked up the Toyota. It seemed strange to see it sitting there so far from home. We went by Stonehenge on the way back and thought it was a very impressive sight. It really felt great having the car because of the freedom it gives you. Also it opens up so many opportunities to see things that aren't accessible on a ~~tour. The day was clear & warm -~~ our first! The English countryside is beautiful with rolling hills dotted with sheep. We're anxious for you to come so we can drive through Wales and visit the castles & seashore. Our household goods may arrive next week.

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There are some advantages in being associated with the military overseas. We can shop in the commissary and even get a gas ration. I'm not sure how much this is since I haven't signed up for it yet. In England a letter put in the mail one day normally is delivered the next. Yet a stamp costs 30¢. There is lots of fresh fruit available but prices are high. Some items even come from Washington State. Our refrigerator, as is typical, only has room for ice trays in the freezer. I signed up for a 10 mile race thru work and later found that Vickie can't compete - no women allowed. Well, there are many other things we are learning about so we'll have lots to talk about some time.

Jim & Vickie